

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic module for live connection
2 with a computer system, comprising:
a power line for receiving power from the computer system and powering a load
4 of the electronic module;
a ground line;
6 an input/output line; and
a switch element coupled to said power line and said ground line between said
8 power line and the load, wherein said switch element disables said power line until said
ground line is coupled to a ground of the computer system.

2. (Original) The electronic module of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a power connector for coupling said power line to the computer system;
a ground connector for coupling said ground line to the computer system; and
4 an input/output connector for coupling said input/output line to the computer
system;
6 wherein said connectors have substantially uniform lengths.

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 2, wherein
2 said switch element is a solid-state switch comprising:
a first source coupled to said power connector;
4 a first gate coupled to said ground line; and
a first drain coupled to the load;
6 wherein the solid-state switch is non-conducting until said ground line is coupled
to a ground reference of the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic module with non-staggered
2 connectors, comprising:
a power connector configured to couple a first load internal circuit of the
4 electronic module to an interface power source;

1 a ground connector configured to couple a ground line of the electronic module to
6 the interface; and
2 a switch, positioned inline between said power connector and said first load,
8 wherein said switch is configured to electrically isolate said first load internal circuit until
said ground connector is coupled to the interface;
10 wherein each of said power connector and said ground connector are of
substantially uniform lengths.

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2 5. (Original) The electronic module of claim 4, further comprising:
3 an input/output connector configured to couple an input/output line of the
4 electronic module to the interface;
5 wherein said input/output connector is of said uniform length.

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2 6. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 4, further
3 comprising:
4 a logic voltage connector configured to couple a second load internal circuit of the
5 electronic module to the interface;
6 wherein said logic voltage connector is of said uniform length.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ensuring multiple electrical
2 connections are completed to an interface module in a predetermined order, comprising:
3 a gate configured to be coupled to a ground reference of the interface module;
4 a source configured to be coupled to a voltage source of the interface module; and

1 a drain coupled to a load;
6 wherein the apparatus is positioned inline electrically between the voltage source
and the load; and
8 wherein the apparatus is non-conducting, and said drain is isolated from said
source, until said gate is coupled to the ground reference.

12. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:
2 a processor;
4 a memory; and
a hot swappable component, comprising:
6 a power input configured to receive power, for powering a component
load, from the computing device through a power connector;
8 a ground configured to receive a ground reference from the computing
device through a ground connector; and
10 a switch configured to isolate said power input from the a-component load
until said ground is coupled to the ground reference;
12 wherein said switch is positioned between said power input and the
component load.

13. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said power
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially identical lengths.

14. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:
4 an input/output line configured to provide information from the component to the
computing device through an input/output connector;
6 wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said input/output
connector are of substantially identical lengths.

15. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:

a logic voltage input configured to receive logic voltage from the computing device through a logic voltage connector;

wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said logic voltage connector are of substantially identical lengths.

16. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said switch is a
2 field effect transistor comprising:

4 a gate configured to be coupled to the ground reference;
a source configured to be coupled to the power input; and
a drain coupled to the component load;
6 wherein said field effect transistor is non-conducting until
the ground reference.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a hot swappable
2 module to an interface of a computing device, comprising:

4 receiving a first voltage from the computing device through a first voltage
connector of the module, wherein said first voltage connector is electrically separated
from a load of the module by a switch;

6 receiving a ground reference from the computing device through a ground connector of the module;

8 until said ground reference is received, isolating said first voltage connector from
the a-load of the module; and

10 when said ground reference is received, enabling electrical conductivity between
said first voltage connector and the load.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first voltage
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially the same length.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 digital input/output connection from the computing device through an input/output
connector.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 second voltage from the computing device through a second voltage connector of the
module.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one of said first voltage
2 and said second voltage is Vcc.
